

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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FOR TYRE,

KILL KKKAPITALISM



NEWARK, NJ, January 30—Workers across the U.S. are taking to the streets to rally against the murder of Tyre Nichols after the release of bodycam footage showed Nichols's brutal, deadly beating by Black Memphis cops. Progressive Labor Party members (PLP) joined a rally in Newark in solidarity with Tyre Nichols and the countless names of workers slain by this murderous system. This latest murder confirms a trend of Black-led liberal fascism where we see cities with a Black democratic ruling class government are becoming the new faces of terror against our class.

Now, the workers' anger confirms a) the shallowness of identity politics as a tool to divide us, and b) reforms don't work.

Instead, workers need to join PLP. Smashing the racist, fascist police terror that robbed Tyre's life is a pillar of our Party's work.

A Black cop is still a kkkop

The protest was led by the liberal reformers in the city of Newark and had more local govern-

ment officials than workers present. This can only be explained by the historical contradiction of this period—where identities are primary to the capitalist ruling class to divide and exploit workers and squash rebellion more intensely. Tyre Nichols, Carl Dorsey, Manuel Esteban Paez Terán or Tortugueta, and Keenan Anderson are victims of the liberal fascist state ruled by Black and Latin politicians and cops.

"See, us Black people are suffering everywhere," one woman said. Monique Rodwell, mother of the Rodwell-Spivey brothers, assaulted by police in 2020 and friends of PLP replied, "it's not just Black people; it's poor people." Another educator with us noted, "the protests stopped once Biden got in office. He's the same one that introduced the 1994 Crime Bill." This is someone that has been in our base for years and a former student of a comrade in Newark.

We were not strong enough in numbers to provide leadership at this rally but we do plan to organize a worker-led response to the murder of Tyre

Cop city: liberal fascism on steroids

Under liberal fascist former mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and current mayor Andre Dickens, Atlanta began plans to build Cop City. This \$90 million training center would include a shooting range and model neighborhood to stage raids on 85 acres of forest adjacent to historically Black communities (CNN, 9/24/22?). Workers are fighting back with street protests and erecting their own camps in the threatened forest.

On January 18, Tortugueta, a widely loved environmental organizer, in a raid on the encampments was killed (PBS, 1/29). The police killing prompted several nights of protests in downtown Atlanta and worldwide as workers questioned the police account of the murder. More than a dozen protestors have been charged with domestic terrorism. This chilling new trend is popular with liberal fascist politicians to squash worker fightback.

and the rise of liberal fascism in the near future. When liberal fascists are forced to face the rage of the working class and manage to get away, we as communists cannot stop organizing. For every Tyre there are masses of workers killed by racist police terror around the world that don't make the headlines. Fighting for Alex Flores, for Shantel Davis, Raymond Chalusant we didn't stop. And we won't stop until masses of workers around the world see that police brutality is as vital to capitalism, as communist revolution is to workers!

Liberal fascism unleashes killer kkkop gangs

In the aftermath of the George Floyd worldwide movement led by Black workers, liberal fascist mayors and politicians misled workers with the most revolutionary potential, funneling our class' rage into the ballot box, while also unleashing a vicious wave of racist police terror.

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

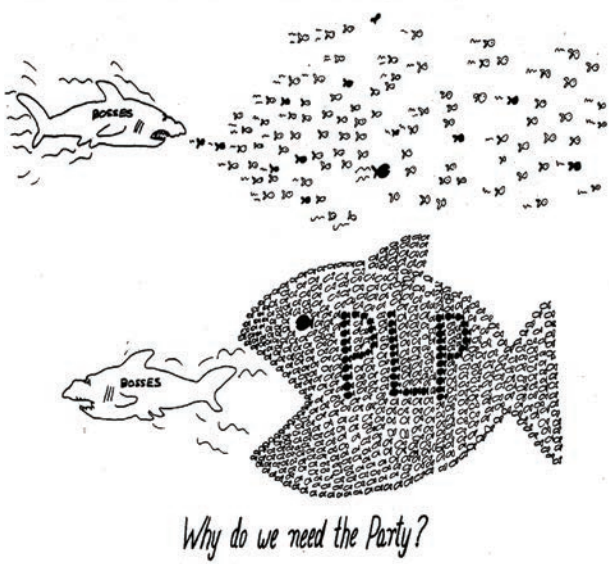
CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Peru’s crisis, a flashpoint of imperialist rivalry



With capitalism in a worldwide crisis, inter-imperialist rivalry on the rise, and the bosses’ liberal democracies under siege, Peru is in bloody turmoil. Competing ruling-class factions are pushing our class to fight and die for their profits. Following the ouster of fake-left misleader President Pedro Castillo in December, mass demonstrations have erupted against his unpopular successor, Dina Boluarte. Workers have barricaded roads, blocked airports, and even forced the shutdown of the historic Inca site of Machu Picchu (Washington Post, 1/26). More than 50 workers, many of them Indigenous workers who’ve been targeted for racist oppression since the Spanish conquest of Peru in the 16th century, have been killed in clashes with the cops.

Militant, antiracist fightback against capitalist exploitation is always welcome. But when protests are channeled into support for one rotten, corrupt politician or another, they only strengthen the bosses’ hand. Our struggle must be aimed at the very core of the racist, sexist profit system. Capitalism must be smashed, root and branch. Without revolutionary communist politics and leadership, mass movements wind up funneled into dead-end reforms. Workers are left with crumbs—and even those crumbs will be taken away with the bosses’ next crisis.

The international Progressive Labor Party is fighting to build a mass revolutionary movement to destroy the capitalist profit system and create an antiracist, egalitarian world. We invite workers across South America and worldwide to join the Party for true working-class liberation.

All politicians serve the capitalist state

Peru is simmering for rebellion. Rich in natural resources, the country is one of the world’s top exporters of gold and copper (Ernst and Young, 2/21/22). It is also marked by staggering racist inequality, with one of three workers living in poverty (Foreign Policy, 1/25). With a healthcare infrastructure in a state of collapse, Peru has the world’s highest Covid-19 mortality rate (Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Research Center). Indigenous workers in remote rural areas suffer from intense discrimination and high unemployment (Lima Easy, 5/6/21).

To win election as president in July 2021, Castillo, an Indigenous former schoolteacher, campaigned as a po-

litical “outsider” who promised sweeping reforms. He followed the playbook of other “pink tide” misleaders, from Hugo Chavez in Venezuela to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil.U.S., promising a new constitution, imagrarian land reforms, and to redistribut to the we wealth to the working class by levying heavy taxes on foreign mining companies (Reuters, 6/11/21)

After Castillo was impeached and jailed on charges of rebellion and conspiracy, his number-two, Boluarte, seized the reins. She quickly changed sides to ally with Peru’s right-wing bosses. Her new best friend is one-time rival Keiko Fujimori, daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, the CIA-backed butcher whose regime killed thousands of civilians in the 1990s in its “dirty war” against the Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerilla groups (Silvio Rendon, Research & Politics, January-March 2019.) Castillo and Boluarte prove once again that “lesser evil” capitalist stooges have nothing to offer the working class.

Rival imperialists scrap over spoils, workers pay the price

The extreme instability in Peru reflects sharpening, worldwide inter-imperialist competition. Like most of Latin America, the country has been pillaged by U.S. imperialists for more than 200 years. It recently served as the seat of the so-called “Lima Group,” a U.S.-led coalition that tried and failed to topple the government of oil-rich Venezuela (Pressenza, 9/13/21).

But over the last decade, China has replaced the U.S. as Peru’s top trading partner. Chinese bosses have poured billions into the country as they build ports and mines, including deals to connect Peru to its massive Belt and Road infrastructure project (Jones Day, January 2020). Far from bringing new prosperity to the region, this infusion of Chinese capital has only perpetuated worker exploitation in Peru. In 2022, workers repeatedly blocked roads leading to the Las Bambas copper mine after the Chinese firm MMG refused to share revenues with working-class communities (Reuters, 2/16/22). Perhaps not coincidentally, the incarcerated Castillo had moved Peru closer to the Chinese bosses and away from the U.S.

While we have no way to know when rising tensions between U.S. and Chinese imperialists will spill into open conflict, it’s clear that the two imperialist powers are heading toward World War III. When proxy conflicts inevitably expand into a global conflagration, the international working class will pay the highest price.

We can and will run society as a united working-class

As capitalist politicians show their callous contempt for the lives of those who vote them into office, other workers are rallying to support protestors who risk their lives in the streets. From Ferguson and Memphis to Gaza, Tehran, and Lima, workers and students have opened their homes and donated food and medical aid. Amid a crisis created by the violence and corruption and greed of the imperialist bosses, workers continue to show the courage and ability to fight for their class. The historic task before Progressive Labor Party is to transform these isolated reform battles into a worldwide fight for communism. Only the dictatorship of the proletariat can permanently end the bloody nightmare of capitalist rule. Join us!☛

KKKop Ron & state guilty of racist murder

Los Angeles, CA, January 20- Criminal KKKop Martin Ron was found guilty by an LA County civil jury today of “negligence” which caused the death of Cesar Rodriguez, a 23-year old Latin man. Cesar was accused of not paying his transit fare and taken off the METRO train by a racist fare inspector, who then handed him over to City of Long Beach cop Ron. Cesar was wrongly arrested and Ron then performed an “off-balance” full body search of Cesar within 2-3 feet of the edge of the subway platform. Cesar fell and, with Ron on top of him and his outstretched legs dangling over the edge, an oncoming train crushed and killed him.

Through our intense involvement in the movement against racist police violence in Southern California, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have met family after family whose loved ones were taken from them by these animals who wear uniforms, serve the capitalist class and protect their profits.

These continuing murders (at least three more workers’ lives were stolen by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in the first two weeks of 2023) have only hardened our belief that no reform or lawsuit can stop the hemorrhaging of the blood of our class by the cops. Only the violent take-down of the capitalists and their government and the establishment of communist working-class rule can put an end to this slaughter. Gradually, more family members are coming to agree with our politics.

An integral part of capitalist infrastructure here, METRO is the largest landowner in Los Angeles County (act-la.org/). Its 2022-2023 budget is \$8.8 billion, with a 12.5 percent increase in spending for “public safety”, i.e. cops, fare inspectors, etc. (LA Metro, 5/25/22). It has a \$786 million multi-year contract with the LAPD, LASD (sheriff’s department) and Long Beach cops. Its Board of Directors is dominated by Democratic Party politicians, including LA Mayor Karen Bass, four current or former LA County Supervisors, and Inglewood Mayor James Butts. METRO, a supposed paragon of public service, enforces systemic racism. “Despite making up only 18 percent of riders, Black riders have been issued 50 percent of citations and arrests by METRO’s contracted” KKKops (act-la.org/metro-a-a-sanctuary).

Racist cop terror and lies stir working class anger

Like many other families in the LA area, Cesar’s family, including his mother and three sisters, has waged a heroic campaign publicizing their son and brother’s murder and fighting for justice. This organizing ensured that, during jury selection and every day of the two-week trial, jurors saw a multi-racial group of supporters sitting in the courtroom, including other victimized families, PLP members and local organizers. Day after day, family members thanked PLP members for our unswerving commitment to all the families’ struggles.

Many supporters of Cesar’s family understand that capitalism is at the root of racist cop terror and murder. Ron was never charged with any crime during the administration of former Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna, who was recently elected Sheriff of LA County. In fact, he was promoted to Sergeant. As one of Cesar’s sisters said to the Telegraph Newspaper “No amount of money is going to bring Cesar back ... This is not justice for us. It would be for (Ron) to be in jail.” By definition, the capitalist court system cannot stop the carnage reaped by a police force that the ruling class needs in order to stay in power.

With one exception, all of the witnesses for Ron were cops or wanna-be “fare inspector” cops.

Their racism was palpable - their lies vicious. In response to a question from the family’s lawyer, the inspector who pulled Cesar off the train said he appeared “not normal” and “dirty.”

Several cop witnesses claimed Cesar tried to escape and in doing so lunged towards the oncoming train. One other defense witness actually told the ludicrous story that Cesar tried to run across the tracks in front of the train and Ron tried to grab and save him!

Courts serve the bosses’ interests, not ours

After the jury rendered its negligence verdict against Ron and left the courtroom, along with the judge, court supporters got a lesson in which class the courts actually serve. Cesar’s mother collapsed, weeping. Within two minutes, a dozen LA County

Sheriff’s officers invaded the courtroom.

The cops claimed they were there to render medical treatment to Cesar’s mother, an out and out lie since none of them was a medical person. Ron had apparently complained to one of the Court Clerks that he felt harassed or threatened. So the Clerk put in a call, and Ron’s fellow pigs came to his rescue. In the face of these fascist tactics by the cops, the mainly female supporters of the family stuck together and told the cops to their faces that their help was not needed or wanted. As the Sheriffs backed off, the supporters escorted family members out of the courtroom.

A positive sign was the obvious effect that years of struggle against racist police violence in the streets has had on public perceptions of the cops. In pre-trial questions designed to elicit “bias” of the 50 person jury pool, person after person related negative interactions with cops, either personal or involving a family member or friend. There was much refusal to trust police testimony, and a desire to award the family monetary damages, even if the cop was found not responsible for Cesar’s death. One prospective juror said he could not be unbiased because the role of the police is as an arm of a government responsible for systematic oppression. Because of this wide-spread anti-cop sentiment, defense attorneys ran out of challenges to the jury makeup and were unable to keep off all of those who criticized the cops.

Only communism will end racism

Despite the jury’s \$12.6 million verdict, it may be a long time before the family sees any of that money, if at all. Cop Ron’s attorneys will no doubt appeal. This battle has already gone on for five and a half years. However, the family will keep up the struggle. One of his sisters said that the cops’ lies about Cesar have just made her want to fight back harder. At the post-trial party celebrating this small taste of justice for the family, a PLP member pointed out that “our class still suffers daily at the hands of these attack dogs for the ruling class and only a communist revolution can change that.” We in PLP pledge an unending battle to bring that world about. ✪

Justice for Tyre: smash racist police

Continued from page 1

Black mayors from Atlanta, Washington, DC, and Newark painted Black Lives Matter slogans on the same streets where they send their killer kkkop special units to spill workers’ blood. These units—from the Jump Out Boys in Newark that killed Carl Dorsey and threatened the Rodwell Spivey family to the Executioners in Los Angeles to the Memphis Scorpion Unit that killed Tyre Nichols – are essentially a kkkop murder inc., a persistent nationwide element using corruption and intimidation tactics to cement their control over the Black and Latin working class communities they cannot profit without.

Like Newark, Memphis is a model for Big fascists to pour in their finance capital. For Bank of America, Citigroup, and JPMorgan Chase, extracting superprofits from the guaranteed racist super-exploitation and super-neglect of a majority Black and Latin workforce is a winning formula! These parasites are the largest beneficiaries of extra payments, commonly known as a “Black Tax,” placed on such municipalities forced to take loans to close gaps in budgets unmet by taxing such low wages (Bloomberg, 09/29/22). Tennessee, the state where Memphis is located, is on par with the lowest minimum wage across the U.S. \$7.25.

The answer of fascist U.S. President Jim Crow Joe Biden has been to betray workers by riding the wave of workers’ anger into office. Once elected, Biden assured finance capitalists that there would be no effort to defund the police (itself a liberal reform) under his administration.

Today, U.S. police forces represent the third largest military expenditure globally; as former New York City mayor Bloomberg called it, the NYPD is one of the world’s largest armies. Expect the Biden administration to opportunistically milk the Nichols tragedy to stoke their political momentum for the 2024

election. As we go to press, Kamala Harris—a former prosecutor who sent hundreds of workers to prison—hopes we will forget that when announcing that she will attend Tyre’s funeral.

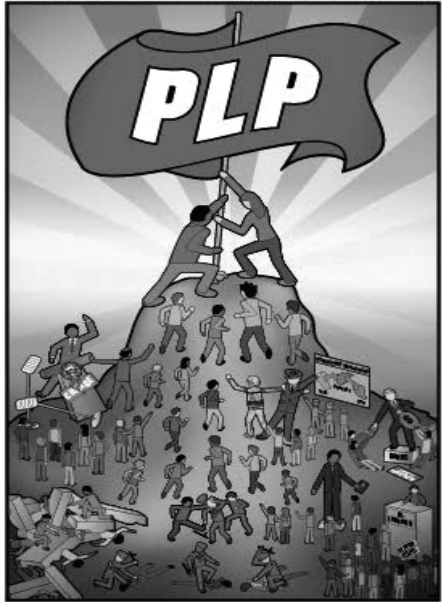
Fight fascism with communism

Under capitalism, there can be no justice for workers against racist killer kkkops. Their job is to serve and protect the ruling class, especially the Big Fascists—the liberal politicians and finance capitalists. For decades, these Big Fascists have wielded the lethal power of the police with near impunity to clear cities of Black and Latin workers for gentrification. At the same time, these liberal fascists push reforms to keep workers invested in the system—from voting to hiring more Black and Latin cops. Tyre Nichols brutal slaying shows that neither works. Only with organized worker fightback with international communist leadership like PLP will we finally realize communism and smash racist police terror once and for all.

On the same day that the first Black woman police chief, Cerelyn Davis, fired the five Memphis cops, the Newark police force under Black Mayor Ras Baraka’s leadership walked away scott-free for murdering another Black worker, Carl Dorsey, in 2020. Politicians at the rally praised Davis, the murderer-in-chief, for swiftly penalizing the cops that killed Tyre. When agents of the capitalist state are disciplined, our class must beware that this is not a victory but a sign of developing fascism.

However, locking a few cops up will never smash racist police terror. Only when workers recognize capitalism as the sham it is and commit to building an internationalist, communist, worker-led state will racism, sexism, and exploitation be eradicated from the face of the earth. ✪

**CAPITALISM
BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL
PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**

'23 MLA Convention

Raising red ideas amid rising fascism

NEW JERSEY, January 31—As the class struggle in higher education intensifies and the echo of war drums gets louder every day, there is a desperate need for a class-conscious, anti-imperialist war movement on university campuses around the world. While the role of universities is to ideologically train the next generation of exploited workers, middle managers, and soldiers, reproducing the bosses' racist and sexist divisions within capitalism, they are also an arena for class struggle fertile for planting revolutionary ideas, and winning students to communism.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been working to build that movement through the Radical Caucus (RC) of the Modern Language Association (MLA), putting forth a revolutionary agenda that stresses the necessity of building a revolutionary party to liberate workers and students alike from the chains of capitalism.

MLA: a fountain for communist ideas in academia

Founded in 1968 in the context of mass protests against the Vietnam War, the Radical Caucus insisted on viewing the war as imperialist, and not just a "tragic mistake." Over the following decades, the RC sponsored sessions on antiracist, antisexist, and pro-working class literature. It brought before the Delegate Assembly resolutions defending immigrant students, graduate student and adjunct unionization, and student organizers fighting campus racism. Deeply involved in all these activities and struggles, PLP continually stressed the pitfalls of liberal reformism and the need for a revolutionary communist outlook. No doubt because of the RC's modest success in shifting leftward the outlook of the Association, several years ago the MLA

leadership affected constitutional changes making it virtually impossible for resolutions to be passed through the membership.

The angered reactions of millions worldwide to the 2020 police murder of George Floyd led the RC to focus on ideological combat over the language shaping mass consciousness. Responding to the need to understand and critically interrogate popular concepts such as "abolition" and "democracy," "intersectionality" and "sustainability," the RC organized the "Keywords Project." Its first online mini-conference, called "New Keywords of Our Struggle," was held in September 2021. More than 80 academic workers, students, and organizers showed up to discuss how to fight back against the higher education bosses. The RC organized three additional mini-conferences on timely topics (war, climate catastrophe, and reproductive justice).

Given the recent intensification of fascist developments worldwide—"Fascism" is now a keyword on the lips of many—PLP, working in the RC, has upped the ante on its activity in the MLA. At this year's MLA convention in San Francisco, the RC hosted two sessions. The first addressed "The Situation since April 1st." The speakers, predominantly insecurely employed professors, outlined how our class is under attack, with the mounting barriers to liveable working conditions and increasing political surveillance of our classrooms. Every year, far more money goes into war than into higher education—access to "public" colleges is increasingly a pipe dream for millions of working-class students—reminds us of the bosses' priorities. The capitalists control "higher education" to develop military weaponry, develop products for profiteering corporations, and to brainwash workers into supporting their system. Using education to destroy poverty

and exploitation is not a priority.

The second panel focused on "Radical Pedagogy in Precarious Times." Better attended than the MLA's well-publicized "presidential panel" on "working conditions" scheduled for the same time, the RC panel testified to a growing interest in intervening as opposed to wallowing in the higher education crisis. A PLP speaker discussed the ways in which popular terms like "intersectionality" reduce Marxist class analysis to "class reductionism," opening the door to the anticommunism and identity politics at the ideological core of liberal fascism.

The Annual Meeting of the RC opened with a political discussion of both the need for an anti-war movement and an assessment of the union sell-out in the University of California strike—the largest strike in the history of higher education. A long-time PLP member spoke passionately about how both "sides" in the war in Ukraine are the losing one for workers. Although the recent surge in class-conscious unionizing in higher education offers opportunities for students to learn more about the nature of capitalism, the omnipresence of blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags on U.S. and Canadian college campuses indicates that it will be hard work to bring anti-imperialist consciousness to current understandings of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

PLP members will continue to strive to keep the RC oriented towards a communist revolutionary horizon. It has been decided that the RC's future mini-conferences will be less focused on ideological analysis—via Keywords—and more issue-oriented, posing and responding to the problems the RC will face as it seeks to build its anti-capitalist capacities. PLP is the solution for transforming these anti-capitalist capacities into revolutionary struggle.✊

APHA public health struggle

From Haiti to Ukraine, combat imperialism

In a previous issue of CHALLENGE, we presented how Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members organized against domestic racism in the American Public Health Association (APHA). This article presents our international work.

Imperialism and wars

PLP and friends organized against the imperialist wars in Iraq and Central Asia. Our resolutions exposed how the war in Iraq was a grab for oil profits. In the war in Afghanistan, the U.S. tried to secure a strategic geopolitical position to counter Russian and Taliban power.

We marched militantly to the military booths at APHA meetings to oppose military recruitment for imperialist wars. We opposed booths with contraception disinformation and Nestle's promotion of infant formula over breastfeeding.

At the 2022, People's Public Health Conference we opposed the war in Ukraine. We contrasted the immense amount of funding the U.S. sent to Ukraine with the unmet funding needs to prevent and treat Covid-19. We advocated for soldiers and civilians to rebel and refuse to fight one another to end the war. We explained that this war was a fight between two imperialist powers competing for economic and political power that only a communist revolution against capitalism could stop. People listened with open minds about communism.

Vaccine equity

When Covid-19 hit, PLP members and colleagues joined forces with Justice Is Global and others to demand vaccines for the world. While the U.S. and European countries had vaccinated over 60 percent of their residents, poorer countries in Africa had vaccinated less than 12 percent; Haiti had even less protection. With many friends, we helped write and pass a successful resolution that attacked the trade and patent policies that prevented other countries from developing their own vaccines.

Joining forces with APHA's International Section, we supported another resolution calling for debt cancellation and public funding of health and social services.



PLP members also attended demonstrations organized by Justice Is Global to demand that the pharmaceutical company Moderna help other countries produce Covid-19 vaccines. PLP members joined a large demonstration at Moderna's headquarters in Boston, rallies at the White House, and a "sleepover" at the home of Biden's Covid-19 advisor.

Liberation for workers in Palestine

A doctor in PLP joined three trips of health workers to Israel and the West Bank from 2004-2010, delivering health care and meeting with many Palestinian and Jewish political and health organizers. This doctor and another PLP member then led several trips of comrades and friends, revisiting these contacts, and recruiting a few workers from Israel to PLP.

In the U.S., a PLP member spoke at several forums to advocate for unity among workers from Israel and Palestine to establish a communist state. She emphasized that both Israel and the Occupied Territories are highly unequal capitalist societies with great internal health and wealth disparities.

Since 2014, a Party member has participated in Jewish Voice for Peace, a U.S. anti-Zionist organiza-

tion, to promote JVP's involvement in antiracist struggles in the U.S. as well as opposing U.S. support of the illegal and fascist Israeli occupation of Palestine. She also argues against uncritical support for Palestinian nationalism as opposed to building a working class antiracist alliance of Jews and Palestinians against an increasingly fascist Israeli occupation.

Immigration and Title 42

At the 2021 APHA meeting, PLP members and friends led a militant march to the ICE (Immigration and Control Enforcement) office to demand an end to Title 42 and the detention and deportation of migrants.

Title 42, implemented under Trump, allows the U.S. government to stop asylees from entering the U.S. because of a perceived health risk from Covid-19. Homeland Security returned tens of thousands of desperate people from Haiti and Latin America to countries where they faced arrest, death, and starvation. Public health and immigration organizers opposed Title 42 with demonstrations, petitions, and appeals to President Biden who deported more people than Trump.

Continued on page 5

NYC housing history

Stuytown: communists led antiracist fight

In 1943, the New York City government expected a huge demand for affordable housing from returning soldiers. It approved construction of 1,232 middle-income apartments to be named Stuyvesant Town – Peter Cooper Village. The new apartment complex was built by the notoriously racist Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. that “had two million Black policyholders carrying \$77 million in insurance while employing no Blacks.”

This involved demolishing 18 square blocks of the “gas house” section of lower Manhattan’s East Side, displacing 11,000 low-income workers and their families. No more than 3 percent of them would be able to afford even the modest rents in the new development.

Bosses’ stooges back racist exclusion

MetLife “developed Stuyvesant Town with the understanding that better living conditions would improve the company’s mortality numbers and therefore annual earnings”(nycurbanism.com). “Both the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune argued passionately for the right of Met Life to bar Blacks from the complex” (Horne, page 126).

Communist councilman Benjamin Davis and allies got a City Council bill passed fining corporations that discriminated. But Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, Port Authority Chairman Robert Moses, and MetLife chairman Frederick Ecker made sure MetLife was exempted. MetLife agreed to build the Riverton Houses in Harlem for Black residents – but these were much smaller and substandard. Of course, this in no way excused MetLife’s refusal to rent to Black workers at Stuytown.

Davis and a few others insisted that “Stuytown” be integrated. Frederick Eckert, president of racist MetLife, refused, saying:

Negroes and whites don't mix ... If we brought them into this development, it would be to the detriment of the city, too, because it would depress all the surrounding property.

Reds lead fightback

In a 1947 lawsuit filed by three Black veterans, the court sided with MetLife. No Black families were allowed to rent. Davis kept up the pressure on MetLife even after he was defeated in an anticommunist campaign in 1949. He called MetLife chair Ecker “the white supremacy architect of Stuyvesant Town [and] head of the biggest Jim Crow oligarchy in the world.”

Lee Lorch, a Communist Party member and a leader of the antiracist struggle, said it was well known that Stuyvesant Town:

was going to be an all-white project... going there carried an obligation to fight discrimination. That's the way a lot of people felt.

In a 2010 interview, Lorch added:

When you got into Stuyvesant Town, there was a serious moral dilemma ... In the concentration camps of Nazi Germany, people had seen the end results of racism.

Committee formed to combat racist attacks

In 1948, with communists in the lead, residents formed the Town and Village Tenants Committee to End Discrimination in Stuyvesant Town. The poll they took proved that 62 percent of Stuytown residents supported integration.

The Committee published a pamphlet titled *A Landlord vs the People* ... The cover photo shows all the Committee’s leadership.

Liberal courts defend racists

When the court denied the lawsuit, the Committee swung into action. First, they arranged for the Hendrixes, a Black working-class family, to stay in the apartment of the Kessler family while they were away. Jesse Kessler, an organizer for the union District 65, CIO, was a communist too. When he returned, the Lorch family invited the Hendrix family to live in their apartment.

Led by communists and union activists, the Tenants Committee put out flyers and pamphlets attacking MetLife’s racism.

Leo Miller, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where “the courage and sharp shooting of a Negro machine-gunner saved my life with a dozen other white GIs,” asked, “Can anyone of us who live in Stuyvesant Town say he may not be my neighbor? I can’t.” Another veteran and his wife said: “We don’t want our children growing up as part of a privileged group and believing from their experiences that Negroes are a people apart.” (Biondi, page 128)

MetLife refused to renew the leases of the Committee organizers and scheduled their forcible evictions. Lorch recalled:

We had decided -- and this was the general feeling on the committee -- we weren't going to go quietly, that we would resist, they'd have to throw us out by force

The Committee and activists from pro-communist unions guarded the apartments and prevented the evictions.

MetLife finally gave in – but only a little. It permitted 15 Black families to move in. However, it insisted that “in return” the Committee organizers move out! The Lorch family and others did so, so that Stuytown would no longer be “Jim Crow.”

Red-baiting of an antiracist fighter

City College fired Lorch because of his antiracist work in the Stuytown committee. He then moved to Penn State, where the president told him:

... to explain this stuff about Stuyvesant Town they'd been getting phone calls from wealthy

alumni essentially wanting to know why I had been hired and how quickly I could be fired.

Lorch lasted only a year at Penn State. A college official told him that his decision to permit a Black family to live in his New York apartment was “extreme, illegal and immoral and damaging to the public relations of the college.”

One thousand students signed a petition saying that his dismissal was “unacceptable.” The world-famous scientist, Albert Einstein, also weighed in on his behalf. (Bagli)

Lorch and his family then moved to Fisk, a historically Black university in Nashville, TN.

At Fisk, Mr. Lorch taught three of the first Blacks ever to receive doctorates in mathematics. But there, too, his activism, like his attempt to enroll his daughter in an all-Black school and refusal to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee about his Communist ties, got him in trouble.

Fired from Fisk in 1955, he moved to Philander Smith, a small Black college in Arkansas. There Grace Lorch, who had organized teachers in Boston, organized help for Black students who were integrating Little Rock’s Central High School, walked with the Black students and tutored them. She and Lorch enrolled their daughter in an all-Black school and became active in the NAACP.

Lorch was fired here too because he refused to cooperate with the anticommunist Congressional committee. The field secretary of the NAACP wrote him:

The best contribution you could make to the cause of full citizenship for Negroes in Arkansas at this time would be to terminate, in writing, your affiliation with the Little Rock Branch, N.A.A.C.P.

Meanwhile, Lorch said, “Thurgood Marshall has been busy poisoning as many people as he can against us.” Marshall later became a Supreme Court justice.

Ethel Payne, of the Black newspaper The Chicago Defender wrote:

Because he believed in the principles of decency and justice, and the equality of men under God, Lee Lorch and his family have been hounded through four states from the North to the South like refugees in displaced camps ... And in the process of punishing Lee Lorch for his views, three proud institutions of learning have been made to grovel in the dust and bow the knee to bigotry.

Communist Black poet Langston Hughes had written about the promotion of anti-Black racism by these and other Black colleges in the essay *Cowards From the Colleges*.

Unable because of racism and anticommunism to get a job anywhere in the U.S., the Lorches moved to Canada, where Lorch taught and did research for the next 60 years. He does not regret the decision he made at Stuyvesant Town six decades ago.

I would have paid a higher price living with my conscience if I hadn't done it ... I thought then, and still do, that it was an important struggle worth any sacrifice in pursuing it. I have no regret over what we did, or what it cost us ...

“Stuytown” remained open to Black residents until it was “privatized” 20 years ago.☛

Sources: Martha Biondi. *To Stand and Fight* (Harvard, 2003); Liz Fox, “Desegregating the ‘Walled Town’ (online); Amy Fox, “Battle in Black and White;” Samuel Zipp, *Manhattan Projects* (Oxford, 2010); Charles V. Bagli, *Other People’s Money* (Dutton, 2013); Bagli, *New York Times* 11.21.2010; Obituary of Lee Lorch, *L’Humanité* March 5, 2014 (in French); Lee Lorch obituary, *New York Times* March 3, 2014; Gerald Horne, *Black Liberation, Red Scare* (Newark, DE 1994). “Lee Lorch”, “Grace Lorch”, Wikipedia; CHALLENGE January 30, 2002.

APHA Struggle

A record of international solidarity

Continued from page 4

The policy was scheduled to end in late December 2022 but has been extended.

Haiti

The Progressive Labor Party launched a summer project with medical workers and friends in Haiti. Doctors and nurses delivered supplies and medications to a large camp and campuses. We led a large rally around the hospital that was shown on Haitian TV.

After an earthquake in 2010, there was a huge outbreak of cholera brought by U.N. troops. The epidemic sickened 820,000 people, killing 10,000. In APHA, PLP worked with a nurse on a policy statement calling on the UN to pay compensation for the damage and develop a clean water system. The

policy eventually passed despite the leadership’s concern about criticizing the U.N. The 2011 APHA meeting sponsored several special sessions about Haiti with the participation of local advocates.

PLP health organizers are currently raising funds for our comrades in Haiti who are providing mutual aid to workers suffering from the current upheaval while organizing study groups to involve more people to fight the exploitation from Haitian and U.S. rulers who maintain poverty and violence.

Lessons

As APHA members, we need to ensure there is action tied to these policies and recruitment to our Party. Most importantly, we need to convince our public health friends to go beyond pushing unlikely reforms and become communists to give workers the power to end war, health inequities, and wage slavery.☛

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

PLP in solidarity with transit strikers!

On Friday, January 27, members of Progressive Labor Party joined transit workers in Leesburg, Virginia for a noontime rally and picket. We also contributed vegetarian food for the immigrant workers from Ethiopia and India who marched with workers from Peru, Puerto Rico and the U.S. This is what multiracial unity looks like. We shared our fliers that we have also been distributing in Maryland and DC among riders and ATU 689 workers. A worker from Ethiopia was delighted to see his photo and gave us his autograph! Others were excited to see CHALLENGE with photos linking their struggle to the health care workers striking in Chicago and New York.

In addition to the active picket line the workers also surrounded a car trying to move too quickly through our picket from the jail next door. Telling the driver to SLOW DOWN and respect our struggle also energized the workers. We learned that the older workers, many with a CDL (Commercial Drivers License) are paid as low as \$13/hour while new hires are being offered twice as much. “Of course we have to strike about that” a worker explained. And many of the new hires still have to train and get a CDL at company expense. The efforts of the Keolis bosses will not succeed with these workers. On January 31st we also picketed at the French Embassy since Keolis and the previous owners, Transdev, have been attacking transit workers throughout the region (See Metro Access article, August 2022). Keolis is also infamous for transporting Jews to Auschwitz during WWII. Dare to struggle, Dare to win.

★★★★★

PLP retreats are communism in action

The following are some impressions from a Progressive Labor Party retreat we had in Los Angeles. We strengthened our relationships and our politics in a weekend getaway.

“I’ve been with you all [Progressive Labor Party] fighting this capitalist system for nearly three years now and this is my first PLP retreat. It was very interesting to learn and go into more details on how the ruling class takes advantage of us and how we [the working class] will never be on top until we demolish this system with a revolution. It’s the only way. No matter how hard we fight for reforms this system was not built for us but for the capitalists. I also loved how we took care of each other. Everything from lighting up the grill to going for a walk and getting fresh air to how child care was organized; it was an amazing experience!” (close friend and family member of brother murdered by LAPD)

Another friend and healthcare worker said, “This was also my first retreat. I thought it was really well organized with a good balance of covering a lot of heavy material and study but was also relaxing. It was really nice to also have a change of scenery to be able to relax and learn about the system and I thought the articles from *Foreign Affairs* were really good at pointing out how the ruling class is pushing us toward world war.”

We also had a new member of the Party, a healthcare worker, and this was also her first retreat. She had this to say. “As a new member of PL (about two years in the Party) and my first time going on a retreat with my comrades and friends I must say my experience was pretty awesome. Same as going to the summer project for the first time. But this time our retreat was just a quick getaway

weekend. Connecting with my comrades and friends we had BBQ, played games and just caught up with everyone. While we were there we talked about fascism and imperialism and conditions for revolution as well as on “What we do counts.” I think it’s very important to have broad knowledge and I always enjoy learning and having more understanding about revolution. I’m looking forward to more and bonding with my comrades.”

Altogether we had a diverse, multiracial, group including three friends. One of them is already in a club and another agreed to join a club and get more involved in a mass organization.

One area for growth was that the content was created and led by our more seasoned Party members and didn’t involve our base and new members in its development. Going forward, we will involve our base and new comrades in the content creation and leadership of upcoming events. The future is bright!

★★★★★

What I learned when I was fired

I am a worker that has actively been part of the Progressive Labor Party and fighting for communism for about seven years. Sometimes that fight feels great, most times it’s challenging. Ultimately, my life has more meaning when struggle is sharpened. In mid-November I was fired for daring to not ask permission to teach my students to fight racist police murder. My hope was to show my students and co-workers over time that the highest form of antiracism is fighting for communism.

My own insecurity about how workers and youth would react to this idea was hard to overcome. My judgment was clouded by the fact I could no longer go into the school building to be reassured by my students and my co-workers that they were open to struggle over these ideas. It got to the point where I broke down in tears at a meeting with my collective of comrades and said I didn’t want to fight anymore. After letting some time pass and having conversations with people around me it helped me see things more clearly.

It is true that bosses fire working class fighters to threaten their potential bonds with other workers. We have to trust that if we fight to make the communist politics of class conscious antiracism, antisexism, and working class solidarity primary before the bosses attack us, workers WILL be emboldened to embrace them after. I had to remind myself that a lot of the impact that PLP has on the working class is not often seen by those of us who are actively a part of the organization at the moment. I also had to remember that the political development of workers takes time. Each time workers are exposed to fightback they have the potential to grow and see the limits and horrors of the capitalist system. Two months after being fired, I am rewinning myself to understand the fight is not over. PLP responded to this attack and as a result more workers and youth have become more open to our ideas.

The racist murder of Tyre Nichols proves again the need to have teachers who teach youth and their parents to be ready to fight back. Because we have been fighting for communist politics already, we are in the position to give and take leadership from the working class at a higher level in response to this new attack against our class.

★★★★★

No benefits for undocumented workers? Fight back!

On January 21, members of a coalition of different community organizations, supported by union members, first held a press conference at the Brooklyn Bridge medians, where there were about 600 participants. This was to launch the campaign for the passage of a bill that would allow undocumented immigrants to access unemployment benefits like other workers when they lose their jobs, and to pay tribute to the undocumented workers who died in construction. Then the march began and later another group of more than 300 people joined, bringing the total number of participants to more than 1,000.

As always, some politicians were present giving reformist speeches and several Progressive Labor Party members who were present chanted our revolutionary slogans and distributed more than 50 CHALLENGE-s.

In this struggle for reform, PLP members have the duty to give leadership and talk to workers and members of community organizations, explaining our line and inviting them to our monthly study group. We need them to join our ranks, always with the idea that only with a communist revolution and the seizure of power by the workers will we change this world of racism, sexism, exploitation, misery, fascism, and wars, for a world of light for the working class.

★★★★★

Rejects all imperialists

As I woke up today (Jan 27, 2023), the news announced the horrific police murder of Tyre Nichols, the bombing of Gaza, the murders of Palestinians in Jenin, and the escalation of war in Ukraine, reminders of the deadly oppression capitalism inflicts.

While each example calls for action, it is especially important to pump up our efforts to oppose the war in Ukraine. Many so-called lefties are taking sides in this war. They support the U.S./NATO alliance as a humanitarian effort to guarantee Ukraine’s self-determination, the right of any country to protect itself. Others support the Russians’ right to protect their sovereignty with some even envisioning Russia as the protector of the “Global South!” Many defend China as an altruistic force with their Belt and Road initiative to build infrastructure in Latin and African countries.

There is no class consciousness in any of these positions. Self-determination does not distinguish between the demands for working class needs and the local rulers’ “right” to reap profits off of workers. Russia is fighting to replace the U.S. as the world’s leading bully. While the U.S. attacks China over trade and Covid-19, China is also trying to establish more influence and wealth through its foreign investments. This all makes for a tangled contest for the world’s riches which Ukraine has in abundance with its mineral, gas, and agricultural resources, and its strategic position next to Russia. This does not benefit workers.

We can’t support any imperialist. There are no good results if any side wins, especially if it takes an expanded war that imperils millions more. To disrupt the war, civilians can organize huge strikes and massive protests, soldiers can refuse to fight, and we can all reject the racism and patriotism that separate us. Such action is necessary but not sufficient. In the end, we need to replace a profit dominated social order that leads to war and state violence and replace it with a communist society where there are no wages, profits, or divisions. A communist revolution is both necessary and sufficient.

★★★★★

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism’s response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They’re willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

80th Anniversary of Battle of Stalingrad

Red Army's victory vs nazi scum

February 2 is the 80th anniversary of the COMMUNIST VICTORY in the Battle of Stalingrad (1943), a major battle on the Eastern Front of World War II where the Nazis and its fascist allies invaded the Soviet Union.

The Russian Revolution of November 7, 1917, is the most important event in the history of class struggle. The multi-national Russian working class seized state power and held it for decades. The Bolsheviks (the Russian Communist Party) led the workers to defeat Russian and foreign armies that tried to overthrow them in a hard-fought four-year civil war from 1917 to 1921.

From 1929 to 1941 the Bolsheviks, now under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, ended the remnants of capitalism and collectivized agriculture to stop the endless series of devastating famines. They created the Five-Year Plans to industrialize the enormous country.

They outlawed racism! The Bolsheviks led the American Communist Party to make the fight against racism primary in all its struggles. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) continues to be the only leftist party to make the fight against racism and nationalism primary in our struggle to build a revolutionary party.

The Bolsheviks also organized the Soviet working class to build a mighty Red Army for the wars that they knew would come. The ruling class celebrates D-Day as the end of World War II (WWII) but it was really the defeat of the Nazis at Stalingrad that dealt the death blow to the fascist armies. The ruling class pushes WWII as a victory for so-called democracy and uses it to rally the working class to support future imperialist wars. Instead, we celebrate the communist discipline and heroism of the working class in the Battle of Stalingrad!

Fascists invade

On June 22, 1941, the fascist German, Italian, and Finnish armies invaded the Soviet Union, with hundreds of thousands of troops from other fascist and German occupied countries. The German Blitzkrieg tactic was to punch through defense lines and cut off and capture huge pockets of encircled enemy troops. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers were taken prisoner in the first few months. But many continued to fight on, breaking out of encirclement, and forming partisan bands behind the fascist lines.

The Germans had never met fighters like the Soviet troops. "The Russian troops... [act] in striking contrast to the Poles and the Western Allies," wrote the German commanding general. "Even when encircled, the Russians stood their ground and fought." Then there turned out to be more Soviet soldiers, better equipped, than the Germans thought possible. As summer 1942 approached, the Nazis again seized the initiative. Now they tried an indirect approach.

Stalingrad

They aimed an offensive south at Stalingrad, center of critical war production and the southern oil fields. Without oil and production capacity the Soviets would be defeated. In August, the Nazi 6th Army launched massive air, artillery and tank attacks.

The Red Army fought to the death for literally every building in the city. Their orders from Supreme Headquarters were "Not one step back." (<https://soviethistory.msu.edu/1943-2/the-nazi-tide-stops/no-one-steps-back/>) Their mission was to pin down the enemy to buy time for a counterattack to be launched.

The Nazis captured 80 percent of the city. Finally, the Soviets controlled only a narrow strip of land. At their backs was the Volga River. On the far bank was their artillery support.

Next the Soviet soldiers were sent to factory strongpoints. They were organized in small groups of six to eight men, trained in hand-to-hand combat. The heroic workers continued production at the tank factory. They drove each newly built tank directly from the assembly line into battle.

"Here [in Stalingrad], heavily outnumbered and outgunned, Soviet defenders fought battles house-to-house. It was in that city that workers, men and women, were won to the necessity of defending their new workers' society. They voluntarily remained at their machines making tanks for the battlefield just outside their factory while bombs fell all around them. If ever an example is needed of the Communist spirit, it is Stalingrad. These defenders had courage, sacrifice, determination and camaraderie--what a boundless sea of what's best in humanity!" (CHALLENGE SUPPLEMENT, 05/17/1995)

By January 1943, preparations were complete. Shocking the German command, the Soviets counterattacked with over a million fresh, well-armed reserves. Outflanking and outfighting the Nazis; they encircled the fascist armies. On February 2, 1943, the Battle of Stalingrad ended, marking the turning point of WWII and the beginning of the end of the Nazis.

Standing on the shoulders of giants

Today, as the imperialists prepare for more wars for oil profits, PLP is fighting to rebuild the international communist movement to turn imperialist wars into communist revolution. We struggle alongside our working class brothers and sisters in fights on the job, during strikes, and in our neighborhoods against police terror. We fight for revolutionary discipline and against the racism, nationalism, sexism, and individualism that capitalism uses to divide us. We fight for the Red Army of the future, Join us!✳

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. general warns that U.S.-China war is coming soon

NBC News, 1/27--A four-star Air Force general sent a memo on Friday to the officers he commands that predicts the U.S. will be at war with China in two years and tells them to get ready to prep by firing "a clip" at a target, and "aim for the head." Gen. Mike Minihan, head of Air Mobility Command, said, "I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me we will fight in 2025." He lays out his goals for preparing, including building "a fortified, ready, integrated, and agile Joint Force Maneuver Team ready to fight and win inside the first island chain." The signed memo is addressed to all air wing commanders in Air Mobility Command and other Air Force operational commanders, and orders them to report all major efforts to prepare for the China fight to Minihan by Feb. 28.

IMF demands Pakistani bosses discipline workers

Al Jazeera, 1/26--The Pakistani rupee has dived to a historic low against the United States dollar after an exchange cap was lifted as the cash-strapped country seeks to unlock a vital bailout from the IMF. The Washington-based lender has yet to approve the release of the crucial installment of \$1.1bn, originally due to be disbursed in November last year as part of a \$6bn bailout secured in 2019. Talks with the IMF about reviving the bailout stalled in recent months, with the institution demanding more progress on fiscal consolidation and economic reforms. The rupee closed at 230 to the US dollar on Wednesday.

This week, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said his government was ready to adhere to the fund's "tough conditions" to revive the \$6bn bailout package... Sharif has been struggling to put the economy on track since taking office last year, blaming

former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his government for the economic malaise. Khan was removed from office in April 2022 through a parliamentary vote of confidence, and has since been campaigning for early elections.

Fascism grows in an Atlanta forest

The Guardian, 1/28--When...Will Potter saw the Atlanta police chief, Darin Schierbaum, tell a recent press conference "it doesn't take a rocket scientist or an attorney to tell you that breaking windows and setting fires is not protest -- it's terrorism", he could not believe his ears. Schierbaum was speaking about a march through midtown Atlanta, Georgia, last Saturday night that began peacefully, only to see several protesters separate and begin breaking windows of businesses and lighting fire to a police car. The marchers were protesting "Cop City", an 85-acre, \$90m training facility planned for South River forest, a wooded area south-east of the city.

The...arrests of 18 activists charged under a state domestic terrorism law...have escalated tensions over Cop City. They culminated Thursday afternoon in the Georgia governor, Brian Kemp, declaring a state of emergency...These actions have also been matched by strident rhetoric from police and politicians in Georgia, seeking to define a largely peaceful protest movement -- often focused on environmental and racial justice issues -- as terrorism and those who participate in it as terrorists.

Yellen the stooge shows up in Africa to lay down the law

Wall Street Journal, 1/27--Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned South African officials about the



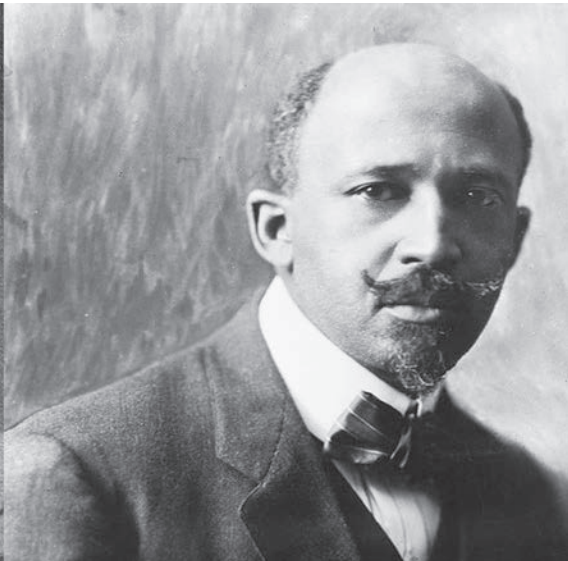
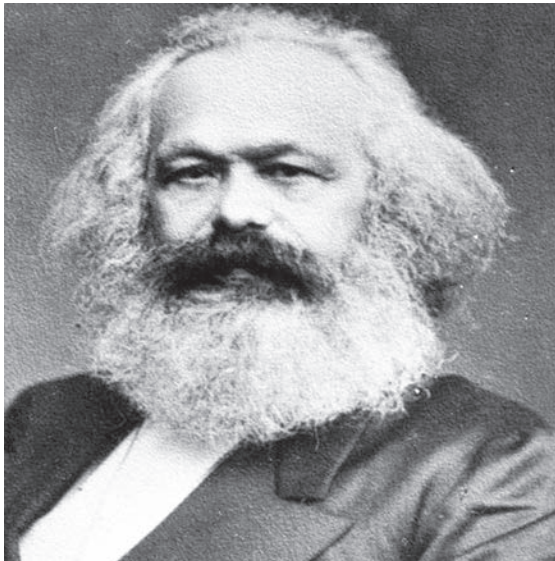
Profits, Prices, Wages

consequences of violating U.S. sanctions, as the Biden administration tries to balance its response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine with a broader effort to deepen ties with African governments...U.S. officials have also criticized plans by South Africa's military to hold a joint naval exercise with Russia and China during the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine next month.

"My main message is that we take very seriously these sanctions that we've placed on Russia in response to its brutal invasion of Ukraine," Ms. Yellen said during a tour of South Africa's coal-mining region. "Violation of those sanctions by local businesses or by governments--we would respond to quickly..."

Marx and Du Bois

ABOLISH RACISM WITH THE WORKERS' DICTATORSHIP



Karl Marx (pictured left) W.E.B Du Bois communists anti-racists

While “abolition” politics has become the trend among armchair intellectuals in the academic community, some PLP members working in the Marxist Literary Group this past year have engaged the political writings of two preeminent Marxist philosophers, Karl Marx and W.E.B.DuBois, alongside academic workers who can potentially join our party. Struggling over the main political contributions put forward in Marx’s Capital, Vol. I (1867) and Du Bois’s Black Reconstruction (1935), our comrades in the MLG underscore Marx’s concept of “human labor pure and simple,” as a foundation for emphasizing PLP’s call for egalitarian communism. PLP demonstrates how this concept was absorbed by Du Bois and became the foundation of his new theory of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era in the US; namely, that it was an uprising of Black “human labor pure and simple” that radically challenged “the dictatorship of property” in the slaveholding Confederacy. These ideas reinforce our current recognition that black workers are key to communist revolution at this moment in history.

Lesson #1: Black Workers Were the Greatest Abolitionists of the Civil War

The two books have many points of contact. Capital is the definitive analysis of how capitalism works, the exploitation of workers’ labor-power through the wage-form. It was written before and during the U.S. Civil War, which Marx called “a pro-slavery rebellion,” and published just as Reconstruction began in the U.S.. Marx’s own communist party, the International Workingmen’s Association, got going at the same time as Reconstruction, and corresponded with the new American labor movements, whose tragic flaw of racism was highlighted by Du Bois. A fierce abolitionist, Marx refers often to American slavery in Capital, including the famous passage “Labor in a white skin cannot emancipate itself where it is branded in a black skin” (p.414).

Chapter 10, “The Working Day,” with its horrific picture of mid-century factory work in England, often compares forms of workers’ enslavement in the factory or on the plantation (pp. 345, 377-8, 398, 414-5).

For his part, Du Bois wrote his history of Reconstruction in the Depression 1930s, when communist thinking was at its most influential in the U.S., and he was reading Capital as he wrote. Black Reconstruction is considered his most Marxist work. Several times, for example, he calls for an international “dictatorship of the proletariat,” most resoundingly at the end of Chapter XIV, “Counter-Revolution of Property.” Here in the depths of the Depression he sees the surge of Black revolt in Reconstruction pointing ahead to a global workers’ rebellion:

The exploiting group of New World masters... fought for trade and markets and materials and slaves all over the world until at last in 1914 the world flamed in war.... And the rebuilding, whether it comes now or a century later, will and must go back to the basic principles of Reconstruction in the United States during 1867-1876—Land, Light and Leading for slaves black, brown, yellow and white, under a dictatorship of the proletariat (p. 762). Marx and Du Bois both understood that workers necessarily had to take state power by force, to abolish capitalist property, and to keep power in their hands to suppress the inevitable counter-revolution. Their radical understanding of workers’ power came from their belief that it is workers’ labor, “simple average labor,” which creates the world, and with capitalists out of the way it is simple average labor which will rebuild it.

LESSON #2: ORDINARY, ANTI-RACIST WORKERS CAN AND MUST RULE THE WORLD

What was this core idea of Marx that so galva-

nized Du Bois, “equal or abstract human labor”? Early in Chapter 1 Marx writes:

Tailoring and weaving, although they are qualitatively different productive activities, are both a productive expenditure of human brains, muscles, nerves, hands, etc., and in this sense both human labor....More complex labor counts only as intensified or rather multiplied simple labor...all labor is an expenditure of human labor-power, in the physiological sense, and it is in this quality of being equal, or abstract, human labor that it forms the value of commodities (pp. 135-7).

The political consequence of seeing labor this way, in both Marx and Du Bois, is to affirm the right and duty of ordinary workers to rule the world. That was the lesson Marx drew from labor in the capitalist system and Du Bois from the Black revolt against American slavery. Du Bois describes in Chapter IV how Black workers withdrew their labor from the slave regime by escape, sabotage, and armed struggle in the Union Army. He saw that massive upheaval by enslaved workers as a kind of “General Strike” of Black labor to abolish slavery. It was racist ideas, plain and simple, that prevented white workers from joining in the radical aim of “abolition democracy.” While the 1880s multiracial class struggle led by the Knights of Labor showed the power of workers from Louisiana to Chicago when they organized as a class, internal weaknesses in these groups and the labor movement overall left white workers—then and now-- handicapped in seeing fellow-proletarians in the enslaved or freed Black worker. Yet for Du Bois the defeat of Reconstruction merely invites us to re-see ourselves, and rebuild , as one.

Lesson #3: No Good Bosses in a Racist System

Just as the so-called abolitionist Northern capitalists, whose military presided over the entire process of Reconstruction, ultimately prevented that legal abolition from going further towards workers’ power, so too do the liberal fascist bosses of today stand to implement the most imperialistic, war-mongering, and anti-immigrant policies of the working class in the US. Whether it is was the Obama-led oversight of crackdowns on antiracist protestors from Ferguson to Baltimore or the current Biden-led oversight of anti-immigrant concentration camps across the Mexican border, history shows that capitalism always makes good on its commitment to racism, and that the best ideas of Marx and DuBois remain more valid today as ever. Join us!*

W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction & Other Writings, Library of America edition, 2021.

Karl Marx, Capital, Vol. I (trans. Ben Fowkes), Penguin Classics edition, 1990.

NEXT DEADLINE

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday night of February 10** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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